

## Details

**Meeting:** 46th Meeting – Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP Commercial)

**Location:** Dubbo

**Date/time:** 18 and 19 March 2026

**Chairperson:** Nicola Taylor

## People present

**Steven McLeod**, Dr., Scientific community

**Liz Arnott**, Dr., NSW RSPCA

**Doug Jobson**, Australian Wild Game Industry Council

**Gerard Glover**, NSW Farmers

**Greg Rogers**, NSW Farmers

**Steve Johnstone**, NSW PKH Licensee

**James Meyers**, NSW PKH Licensee

**Fiona Harris**, Dept Regional NSW

**Nicola Taylor**, Director Licensing and Approvals, Biodiversity Heritage Regulator (BHR), Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

**Adam Oehlman**, Snr Team Leader, NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Program (KMP) DCCEEW

**Sheridan Maher**, Snr Policy Officer, KMP, DCCEEW

**Jackie Sawyer**, Project Officer, KMP, DCCEEW

**Jessica Fuller**, Project Officer, KMP, DCCEEW

## Guests/presenters/observers

**Adam Gilligan**, Chief Regulatory Officer, BHR, DCCEEW

## Apologies

**Tanya Stephens**, Dr., Australian Veterinary Association

**Thomas Newsome**, Dr., Scientific community

**Erlina St Vincent**, Dr., Dept Regional NSW

**Garry Trindall**, Aboriginal Communities

# Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



## Meeting minutes

Day 1 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 12pm lunch, meeting began at 12:45pm

Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
<p>1. <b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p><b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> – by Jessica Fuller</p>		
<p>2. <b>Introduction</b> – by Nicola Taylor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair, Tanya Stephens in Tasmania (Nicola acting Chair)</li> <li>○ Erlina St Vincent – meeting clash (proxy Fiona Harris)</li> <li>○ Garry Trindall – cultural training for NSW Police</li> <li>○ Tom Newsome – teaching</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional items added to General Business</li> <li>• Agenda adopted</li> <li>• Reminder to provide updated Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest forms if circumstances have changed since last meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting (11 November 2025) were ratified out of session and are published on the KMP website.</p> <p>Actions arising from previous meeting Minutes (update from Sheridan):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AgriFutures Australia (AA) PhD scholarships</b> - recipient, Evan Curtis, submitted his thesis in December 2025 and is awaiting examiners' feedback. Summary was emailed with the meeting agenda. Evan is available to provide an online presentation to KMAP. Discuss in General Business. The other PhD scholarship has not been filled. KMP will discuss with AA other opportunities for the funding.</li> <li>• <b>2025 aerial survey review</b> – the reviewer's comments and KMP's response was emailed to KMAP members along with the meeting agenda on 13/03/2026. Discussion was had around the need for reliability and confidence in survey data. There are few individuals/organisations with the expertise and experience in this field – both to undertake the surveys and provide independent review of results. Procurement is underway for delivery of the 2026 and 2027 aerial surveys. Open Tender expected to be advertised in April. KMP to explore options for collaboration with other states. Other jurisdictions in similar positions, with limited internal survey and analysis capabilities.</li> </ul>	<p>KMP to provide deidentified outline of experience of 2025 aerial survey team.</p> <p>KMP to work with Steve McLeod to develop future review process for aerial surveys.</p>	<p>Adam Oehlman</p> <p>Adam Oehlman</p>
<p>3. <b>Establishment of the NSW Biodiversity and Heritage Regulator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the new DCCEEW Biodiversity and Heritage Regulator (BHR), commenced 19 January 2026</li> <li>• Centralised and functional-based structure</li> <li>• Increased field-based compliance enforcement capability</li> </ul>		

# Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife licensing and KMP brought together into the one branch, reporting to Director Licensing and Approvals</li> <li>Update on the Parliamentary Inquiry into Licences to harm native animals - BHR gave evidence at the first hearing. A second hearing has been scheduled for 28 April. More information, including the terms of reference, is available on the NSW Parliament website - <a href="#">NSW Parliamentary Inquiry</a></li> </ul>		
<p>4. <b>Around the room</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kangaroos are still being seen in large numbers around the state, some are in poor condition around NW – Bourke/Brewarrina.</li> <li>Positive feedback about the recent chiller inspections and increased visibility of compliance enforcement inspectors out in the field.</li> <li>Challenging times for harvesters with increased costs and slim profit margins. Low quotas in some areas are also impacting. One area used to have 23 harvesters, now has 6, but this is perhaps a more desirable number - shooting full-time. Many harvesters have said that it's not worth their while due to quotas, price per kilo and fuel costs. Need to shoot at least 5000 per year to generate a reasonable income, preferably 7-10,000. Current price around \$0.90/kg. No bonus or extra payment for experience. Majority of harvesters are paid the same regardless of experience.</li> <li>Landholders are still seeing high numbers of grey kangaroos across western NSW, including zones that are closed to harvesting. Non-commercial licenses to harm can still be issued in zones that are closed to commercial harvesting, where evidence of damage can be substantiated. When assessing these licence applications, the Department takes into account low commercial harvest quotas and zone closures.</li> <li>Industry challenges:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US FDA approval of irradiated kangaroo</li> <li>Recent banning of kangaroo products by the Flemish parliament in Belgium, which may also affect product going into the Netherlands and Italy and other parts of the EU.</li> <li>Major GMP customer in Europe has gone into receivership.</li> <li>Major sporting brands phasing out or no longer using kangaroo skin – combination of pressure from animal welfare activism and factory efficiency that results from using synthetics. Skin prices have fallen from a high in 2010 of \$18.50 to now less than \$0.25 per skin. Kangaroo skins are a by-product of the meat industry (kangaroo cannot be harvested for skins only) and many skins are now going into landfill.</li> <li>Economic climate is impacting sales in the domestic food market. Similar to other meat products, increased demand for</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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<p>cheaper cuts, such as mince over the more expensive prime cuts. Cost of goods impacting demand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Price of diesel impacting operating costs and profits.</li> <li>○ High proportion of grey kangaroos with nematodes originating from the NSW central west, resulting in a downgrading of product and price. Processors paying more for red kangaroos than greys. <b>Post-script – reminder to report health-related matters to the Emergency Animal Diseases Hotline – 1800 675 888</b></li> <li>○ Industry undertook a survey of consumers, restaurateurs and influencers in Japan and Vietnam to support marketing of kangaroo.</li> <li>● Drought conditions prevail around Brewarrina and Bourke in the NW. Kangaroo numbers are high. Low commercial value and no harvesters or processors are operating in the Brewarrina area. Without reasonable rainfall it is likely that farmers will soon be shooting kangaroos for welfare reasons and may need assistance. Some are hand feeding sheep.</li> <li>● Recent rainfall in the far west and SW will ease drought conditions in coming months. Kangaroo numbers are currently high, but animal condition is declining. Around Ivanhoe in the SW commercial harvesting remains strong.</li> </ul>		
<p>5. <b>KMP Team Leader’s Report</b></p> <p>Presentation covered the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025 commercial harvest - summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The 2025 Annual Report is being finalised and will be circulated. It is usually published on the DCCEE website in April.</li> <li>○ 634,087 kangaroos were harvested in 2025</li> <li>○ Equivalent to 4.6% of the population</li> <li>○ 29% of the quota was utilised</li> <li>○ 88% were male</li> <li>○ Average weight for males = 29.5kg; for females = 19.5kg</li> <li>○ An additional 328,887 kangaroos were potentially culled under non-commercial licences</li> <li>○ Commercial harvest comprised 50% Eastern Grey, 43% Red, 5% Western Grey and 2% Wallaroos</li> <li>○ 2025 harvest top 5 zones - two thirds of the commercial harvest were sourced from the following five zones – Broken Hill, Lower Darling, Coonabarabran, Griffith South, Griffith North</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Kangaroo population surveys</li> </ul>	<p>Circulate 2025 Annual Report when completed</p>	<p>Sheridan</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The 2026 and 2027 surveys will be contracted – KMP is currently preparing the procurement documents for an open tender in April</li> <li>● Question for discussion – should the kangaroo management zones remain the same – advice from scientific community is yes leave them as they are but consideration could be given to mapping the zones based on bioregions instead of historical LGA's.</li> <li>● Question asked if the transects can be changed to survey areas with the highest rainfall or wettest conditions – scientific community said this might create an uneven picture of what is happening on the ground. A combination of the same and new transects each year may be a better option. An adaptive approach to surveys, with zones to be surveyed dependent on seasonal conditions, may be worth considering for future surveys. SA take a risk-based approach to some of their surveying.</li> <li>● Discussion on the results of the Northern Tablelands 2025 survey and whether the 3-year survey rotation is adequate, particularly when a zone closure or reduction is then in place for the next 3 years. The Central tablelands will be surveyed this year (2026). Additional tablelands surveys this year are unlikely given the high cost involved. Other options for reviewing kangaroo populations in the tablelands, such as modelling or forecasting, could be considered for the intervening years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentation on compliance and engagement</b> – targeted harvest reporting and return of unused tags, and increased field-based inspections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evidence of improved reporting over the past 2 years as a result of direct engagement via text messaging reminders to complete monthly reports and through targeted and consistent compliance enforcement measures including Penalty Infringement Notices.</li> <li>● Field-based inspections of chiller premises were also increased across the state with very high rates of compliance. Only a few minor infringements (eg expired registration certificates) were identified.</li> </ul>		
<p>6. <b>Short break</b></p>		
<p>7. <b>This item (Update on compliance and engagement) brought forward and included at item 5</b></p>		
<p>8. <b>Feedback session – review of the Wildlife Trade Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in NSW 2022-2026</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b> – WTMP's permit the export of native species. The current NSW Kangaroo WTMP expires 31 December 2026. A new plan needs to be prepared for assessment and approval by the Australian Government before the current plan expires to permit the continuation</p>	<p>Summary of feedback to be provided to KMAP</p>	<p>Sheridan</p>

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<p>of commercial export. The proposed timeline for delivery was presented. This includes a public exhibition period in May-June 2026.</p> <p>Feedback session on the scope, goal, aims and actions of the current WTMP to guide preparation of a new plan for 2027-2031. Brief summary of main points of discussion:</p> <p><b>Scope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should provision be made to allow for commercial harvesting in NSW National Parks? – not currently permitted and no plans to do so. Noted that SA permitted commercial harvesting in some NP areas last year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Goal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What can be done to shift the number of kangaroos that are culled under non-commercial licences into the commercial harvest – better animal welfare outcomes and more sustainable use. Noted this needs to be addressed but not for inclusion in the WTMP.</li> <li>Discussion on the inclusion of “ethical” in the goal - <i>sustainable, ethical and humane commercial harvest of kangaroos in accordance with the EPBC Act</i>. In what context does ethics apply to the EPBC Act? Consider removing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Aims and Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficult to monitor animal welfare outcomes in the field and reluctance to have compliance staff in the field at night when firearms are in use.</li> <li>Discussion of practices in the field for euthanasing young at foot to comply with the National Code</li> <li>Discussion on the word “quota” and that it is frequently mis-interpreted as being a harvest target. Agreed to change quota to a harvest limit</li> <li>Discussion on action 2.4 - ‘identify threats to population health’ – meant in the broadest sense – eg manage for climate change, bushfires, floods.</li> <li>Is a documented “annual” compliance plan too explicit. BHR regulatory priorities may provide enough guidance. For transparency and accountability, this should be publicly available.</li> <li>Question if KMP has progressed any research into point of kill monitoring. Some initial meetings were had with CSIRO but not progressed, mainly due to limited capacity and resourcing. Could/should be further explored the new management plan is finalised and approved.</li> </ul>		
9. <b>Afternoon tea</b>		
10. <b>This item (scope, goal and aims) was brought forward and included at item 8</b>		

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Meeting minutes

	Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
11.	<b>This item (actions to address the aims) was brought forward and included at item 8</b>		
12.	<b>Feedback session - KMAP</b> Deferred to tomorrow morning		
13.	<b>5pm - Close for day 1</b>		

# Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



## Meeting minutes

Day 1 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 12pm lunch, meeting began at 12:45pm

	Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
14.	<b>Recap from day 1 and added items to general business</b>		
15.	<p><b>Feedback session on the makeup and conduct of the KMAP</b></p> <p>This KMAP was established in 2022 to align with the current WTMP and will expire at the end of the year. One more meeting will be held Oct/Nov. Feedback was sought on the membership/makeup of the panel and also how well the KMAP was engaged by the Department. Summary of key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Got off to a great start and some productive and useful sessions have been held over the years.</li> <li>• Overall positive feedback on the role and contribution of the KMAP, with room for improvement in how the department engages with the KMAP, eg be clearer on what is being asked of the panel and provide more information on agenda items well ahead of the meetings, noting that this is not always possible given resourcing and tight timeframes – eg completion of aerial surveys and preparation of quotas is hard to complete any earlier than currently done.</li> <li>• Including representation from the NSW Food Authority in a future KMAP would be valuable given their regulatory role in the commercial kangaroo industry.</li> <li>• Maintaining engagement with Aboriginal community representatives has been challenging and needs further consideration ahead of establishing a new KMAP.</li> <li>• Discussion about the inclusion of animal activist groups on the panel. Being able to have open and robust conversations with opponents is desirable, but the KMAP is perhaps not the forum for that. The KMAP is an advisory panel that provides advice to government on the regulation of the commercial program, it is not there to question the existence of it.</li> <li>• Face to face meetings are really valuable and provide an opportunity for much better engagement than online meetings – acknowledging that online meetings are efficient can be effective when well planned. Try to ensure at least one meeting is face-to-face each year.</li> <li>• Point of clarification that Gov't agency KMAP members represent the government and are not members in an independent capacity.</li> </ul>		
16.	<p><b>KMP licensing framework – update/feedback</b></p> <p>The establishment of the new BHR provides an opportunity to review the current licensing frameworks for a range of plant and animal</p>		

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<p>licences that are regulated by the department. Feedback on the current KMP licence framework was discussed and covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration and/or accreditation of a chiller manager to regulate the role</li> <li>• Self-reporting of non-compliance with National Code of Practice for the Humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies</li> <li>• A process to connect landholder applications for non-commercial kangaroo culling licences with commercial harvesters</li> <li>• Property scale assessment of control needs</li> <li>• End to end tracing of harvested kangaroos</li> <li>• Improving the accreditation process for new harvesters and opportunities for practical in-field training – ie apprenticeship model</li> <li>• The program has been flexible and supportive, ie adoption of mobile chillers</li> <li>• Licence fee structure to support a range of licence duration options – short 3 month or 6 month licences, compared to multi-year licences</li> <li>• Options to extend tag expiry and re-distribution. Expired tags get sent back and cannot be re-used, while the harvester re-orders new tags – is there a way of re-assigning the unused tags to avoid waste? Look into the SA tag model as it relates to quota management.</li> <li>• Consider options for properties to buy and hold tags and distribute them to licenced harvesters</li> <li>• Applications for culling licences in zones that have low or no harvest quota - would landholders be willing to pay for, or want, an assessor to visit and decide whether control was needed? What is an acceptable level of kangaroos – and at what scale should this be decided? Property or district, noting property size varies enormously across western NSW.</li> <li>• Seasonal conditions will influence where and how far kangaroos will move – paddock to paddock in/out of different zones. Gone one week back the next.</li> <li>• Possibility of QR codes for digital tags</li> <li>• Discussion around licences to harm kangaroos in closed commercial zones and if landholders would be open to having accredited assessors come to their properties</li> </ul>		
<p>17. <b>Presentation of Temporary Grazing Support Program Update</b></p> <p>\$1.2 million funding opportunity announced 16 February 2026:  <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/drought-support-increased-for-farmers-across-affected-areas">https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/drought-support-increased-for-farmers-across-affected-areas</a></p> <p>Only applies to Western NSW.</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western LLS has undertaken early consultation with key stakeholders</li> <li>DCCEEKMP has been involved in early consultation to consider options for priority projects/actions</li> <li>Funds to be acquitted by June 2027 rather than this current financial year</li> <li>Development of a strategic approach to spend the funds where the most gain will be made to reduce the impact of overabundant kangaroo populations</li> <li>Drought declarations are not made anymore. Some other option to demonstrate need will be needed.</li> <li>Accountability and reporting will be needed. SA drought response program required evidence of humane destruction via photo upload</li> <li>In development and more communication will follow.</li> </ul>		
<p>18. <b>Other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KMP will organise an online presentation from Evan Curtis on his PhD scholarship April/May</li> <li>National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for commercial purposes – reviewed and updated in 2020. Discussion on the adoption of outcomes from new research recommending the use of captive bolt devices for the euthanasia of pouch young. NSW would need to see a clear training pathway for harvesters to ensure the correct use of the device, as per the research recommendations - for both animal welfare and user safety outcomes. Industry supports commencement of training and applying licensing amendments to support the use of a captive bolt device in the commercial harvest industry. NSW is not currently considering changing licence conditions separately from any potential update of the Code. Brief discussion ensued on how compliance with the use of a captive bolt device could be monitored. <b>Post-script – paper was published 26 March 2026 and is available here: <a href="#">Research paper - Assessment of Captive Bolt Devices</a></b></li> <li>Tag order limits for species in zones with low quotas – KMP will consider limiting tag orders in low quota zones to spread the opportunity for harvesters to access tags among harvesters.</li> <li>Concerns raised that the Northern Tablelands survey has resulted in very low numbers of wallaroos compared to the previous survey conducted in 2022, resulting in a zero quota for the Armidale zone and only 2,326 in the Upper Hunter zone (which has already been fully allocated). Especially concerning as this quota is locked in for 3 years and historically, they are always present in that zone and typically as a species do not migrate. Additional surveys of the tablelands, outside of the usual 3 year cycle have been undertaken previously.</li> </ul>	<p>Organise online presentation from Evan Curtis</p>	<p>Sheridan</p>

## Items to be carried over to next meeting, and for action

Items/actions	Responsible	Status
1. No items to be carried forward		
2. Any updated Conflict of Interest forms to be emailed to Jessica Fuller	Members this applies to	
3. KMP to provide deidentified outline of experience of 2025 aerial survey team.	Adam	
4. KMP to work with Steve McLeod to develop future review process for aerial surveys	Adam	
5. Circulate the 2025 Annual Report when available	Sheridan	
6. Circulate the feedback table on the WTMP and KMAP sessions	Sheridan	
7. Arrange for online presentation from Evan Curtis on his PhD thesis	Sheridan	
8. Canvas KMAP members for Oct/Nov meeting date	KMP	

## Meeting closed at midday

## Next meeting

**October/November 2026** – to be confirmed.

**Online or in-person** – to be confirmed.